THE DARK KNIGHT RISES
IN THEATERS AND IMAX® JULY 20
DC COMICS™
THE NEW 52!
11
NIGHTWING
KYLE HIGGINS
ANDRES GUINALDO
MARK IRWIN
SEP 2012
RATED T TEEN+
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TIME TO DIE!

IN ORDER TO SAVE GOTHAM...
...THE ONE WHO MURDERED OUR BROTHERS MUST DIE.
His name is Paragon.
The group is the Republic of Tomorrow.
They believe I killed the Strayhorn Brothers.
I'm having no luck changing their minds.
Maybe it's time for a different approach.
SORRY, GUYS... 'FRAID I'M NOT WHO YOU THINK I AM.
UNLESS YOU THINK I'M SOMEONE YOU SHOULD TURN AND WALK AWAY FROM. RIGHT NOW.
...
LAST CHANCE.
THWICK
THWICK
WELL, IT WAS WORTH A TRY.

TOMORROW CAN'T WAIT
KYLE HIGGINS • WRITER
ANDRES GUINALDO • PENCILS
MARK IRWIN • INKS
ROD REIS & PETE PANTAZIS • COLORS
TAMAS LANHAM • LETTERS
BARROWS & REIS • COVER
KATIE HUBERT • ASSISTANT EDITOR
BRIAN CUNNINGHAM • EDITOR
NIGHTWING CREATED BY MARV WOLFMAN AND GEORGE PEREZ
UGH!
SZZKKKKKK
SZZKKKKK
ARHH!
NIGHTWING. "GOTHAM'S HERO."
HOW LAUGHABLE.
SZZT
UGH!
YOU KNOW, WE SHOULD BE ON THE SAME SIDE.
WE'RE BOTH TRYING TO SOLVE WHO KILLED THE YOUR FRIENDS.
NICE TRY.

BRAKAKAKA
EVERY ONE OF *US* IS MEANT FOR BETTER THINGS, NIGHTWING. *TOGETHER*, WE WILL ACHIEVE THEM.
WE WILL RISE UP *AGAINST* THE SELF-APPOINTED "HEROES," THE ONES TRULY RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR PLIGHT.
KAKAKAKA
WE WILL STRIKE BACK AGAINST THE FALSE IDOLS THAT ANOINT THEMSELVES AS SAVIORS... WHO *ATTRACT* DEATH, DESTRUCTION AND WORSHIP.
THE REVOLUTION, NIGHTWING...
KAKAKAKA
KAKAKAKA
KAKAKAKAKA
...BEGINS WITH *YOUR* DEATH!
Running out of real estate.
Need a distraction. Fast.
MAN, THIS IS *SO* GOING TO SUCK...

POOM
SHREEEE
ARHHH!!
Ear dampeners--
holding--
UHN...
--get up, Grayson.
Get up and take him down--
ARRRR--

--RRRRHHHH!!
SHWOOOM
Oh no... that clock's headed for the street!
NO!

Jump the--twisting--
--can't get--a bead--
--gotta break up the clock before it smashes into those people below.
Now or never--
POOM
POOM
POOM
TNK
TNK
TNK
FWAP
DEET
DEET
DEEEEEET
--come on come on come on--

BOOM

EVERYONE GOOD?
EVERYONE OKAY?
WHAT THE...WHAT THE HELL?
SORRY-- CAN'T STAY! BUNGEE JUMPING PHYSICS HERE!
Annnnd they're all gone. Great.
Guy drops half a building on the street and he thinks I'm the reason everything's terrible.
Gotta love a narcissist.
At least I've got a better idea of what the Strayhorns were involved with.
And the firepower they have.
So...

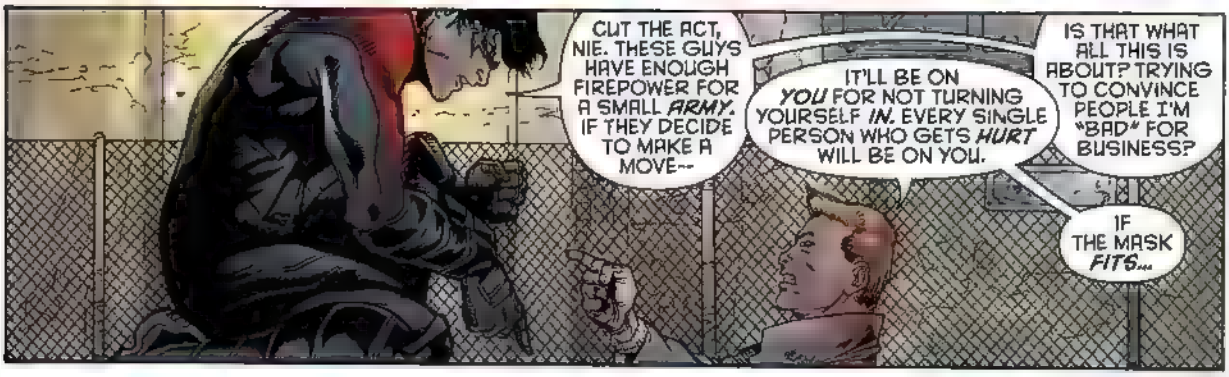
GOTHAM CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT.
...who'd be willing to mess with that?

I ASSUMED NO COP WOULD BE STUPID ENOUGH TO TRY A FRAME JOB AFTER THE ROSSINI/BATMAN CASE LAST YEAR.

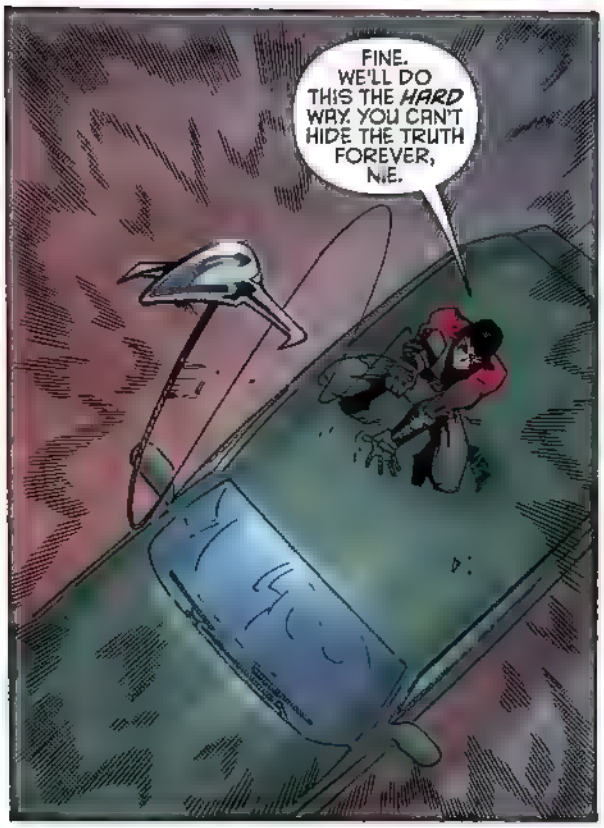
MOST OF ALL YOU, DETECTIVE NIE.*
SHOWS WHAT I KNOW.
*NIGHTWING BELIEVES NIE IS TRYING TO FRAME HIM FOR THE STRAYHORN MURDERS, AS SEEN IN NW #10. —B.C.

HM. I PREFER THE VERSION WHERE YOU MURDERED TWO MEMBERS OF A NEW RADICAL GROUP...

CELLULAR DEVICE LOCATED--SCANNING...
...AND LEFT THEIR BODIES FOR THE *COP WITH CREDIBILITY ISSUES" TO FIND.*
*NW #6!--B.C.


CUT THE ACT, NIE. THESE GUYS HAVE ENOUGH FIREPOWER FOR A SMALL ARMY. IF THEY DECIDE TO MAKE A MOVE--
IT'LL BE ON YOU FOR NOT TURNING YOURSELF IN. EVERY SINGLE PERSON WHO GETS HURT WILL BE ON YOU.
IS THAT WHAT ALL THIS IS ABOUT? TRYING TO CONVINCE PEOPLE I'M "BAD" FOR BUSINESS?
IF THE MASK FITS...

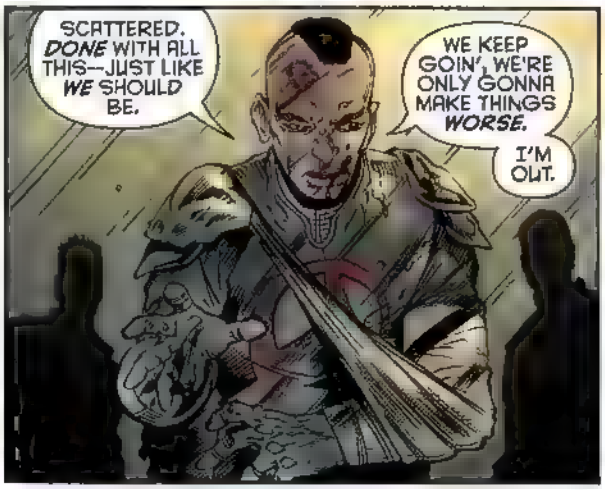
Now that I have a lock on Nie's cellphone G.P.S....
SCAN COMPLETE--LOCATION LOCKED.
...I can track his location and his real connection to this case.


FINE. WE'LL DO THIS THE HARD WAY. YOU CAN'T HIDE THE TRUTH FOREVER, NIE.

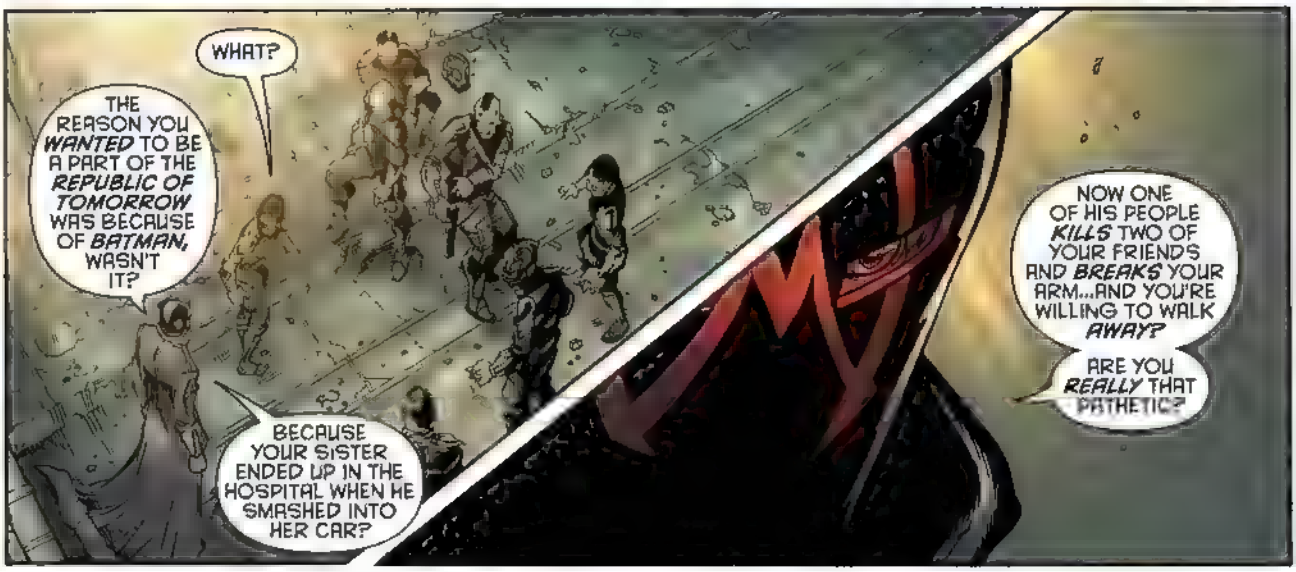
OH, SAYS THE GUY WEARIN' THE COSTUME?
'COURSE, IT'D TAKE STONES TO ADMIT YOU'RE PART OF THE PROBLEM! AND IF YOU HAD THOSE--

"--YOU WOULDN'T BE WEARIN' A MASK!"
--IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO GO LIKE THAT--
--SEEN ONE OF 'EM FIGHT BEFORE, BUT NEVER UP CLOSE--
--THE STICKS... MY LEG IS STILL NUMB FROM--
--IT'S A DAMN DISASTER!

STEVEN, COME ON... CALM DOWN.
AFTER THAT FIGHT, MY ARM'S BROKEN AND I'M OUT THREE TEETH! HOW AM I GONNA EXPLAIN THAT TO MY BOSS?!
TELL HIM YOU GOT MUGGED.
WHAT ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE? DO WE EVEN KNOW WHERE THEY ARE?


SCATTERED. DONE WITH ALL THIS--JUST LIKE WE SHOULD BE.
WE KEEP GOIN', WE'RE ONLY GONNA MAKE THINGS WORSE.
I'M OUT.

WHAT DID BATMAN DO TO YOU, STEVEN?


WHAT?
THE REASON YOU WANTED TO BE A PART OF THE REPUBLIC OF TOMORROW WAS BECAUSE OF BATMAN, WASN'T IT?
BECAUSE YOUR SISTER ENDED UP IN THE HOSPITAL WHEN HE SMASHED INTO HER CAR?
NOW ONE OF HIS PEOPLE KILLS TWO OF YOUR FRIENDS AND BREAKS YOUR ARM...AND YOU'RE WILLING TO WALK AWAY?
ARE YOU REALLY THAT PATHETIC?

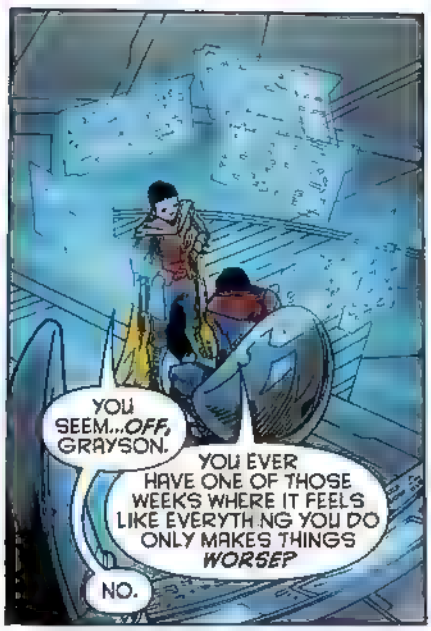
PARAGON--YOU KNOCKED HALF A BUILDING INTO THE STREETS--ON TOP OF INNOCENT PEOPLE!
AND ASIDE FROM THAT, I DIDN'T SEE YOU DO MUCH OF ANYTHING BACK THERE.
WE AIN'T THE PATHETIC ONES.
COME ON, I'M WITH YOU. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE. IT'S OVER.
HE'S MADE YOU ALL WEAK, HASN'T HE? YOU'RE NO GOOD TO ME NOW.
SIZZT
ARHHH!
SCHHRRRP
SKOOOM
SSKOOOM

NEXT MORNING.
OUTSIDE DICK GRAYSON'S APARTMENT.
BZZZZZT
SONIA? WHAT, UH...WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WE'VE GOT A BIT OF A PROBLEM, DICK. CAN I COME IN?
Sonia Branch. Daughter of Tony Zucco, the man who killed my parents.
President of Gotham Municipal Bank.
Non-believer in phone calls.
Got in so late last night, I hope I didn't leave any--
--great. Of course there's a gauntlet out. Why wouldn't there be a gauntlet out?
SO, UH... WHAT KIND OF PROBLEM?
THERE'S CONCERN ABOUT THE FINANCIAL RISK YOUR INVOLVEMENT AT AMUSEMENT MILE CREATES.
WHAT? WHY?
A FEW WEEKS AGO, SEVERAL THOUSAND PEOPLE ALMOST BURNED ALIVE AT THE HALY'S CIRCUS MEMORIAL SHOW YOU OVERSAW, WHEN A FORMER CIRCUS MEMBER TRIED TO KILL YOU.
WE CAN'T RISK SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENING AGAIN.
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE AN UNDESIRABLE CANDIDATE FOR A LOAN.
THE ANSWER'S NO, DICK.

"THE ANSWER'S NO"?
DID YOU TELL THEM, SONIA? DO THEY KNOW WHY WE EVEN HAD TO HAVE THAT MEMORIAL SHOW IN THE FIRST PLACE?
DICK--
OF COURSE NOT. BECAUSE YOU'RE JUST LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE, AREN'T YOU? MAKING EXCUSES... LYING TO YOURSELF TO AVOID THE TRUTH.
SO WHAT IS THE TRUTH? DOES THE THOUGHT OF WORKING WITH ME EMBARRASS YOU?
DOES SEEING ME REMIND YOU OF HOW TERRIBLE YOUR FATHER WAS?
I VOTED YES, DICK.
WHAT?
THE BANK OUTVOTED ME BECAUSE OF THE RISK YOU CREATE.
BUT I GUESS THE TRUTH IS HARD TO HEAR, ISN'T IT?
WAIT--
SLAMM
--I'M SORRY.

LATER, AT THE BATCAVE...
I PRAY FOR YOUR SAKE WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING IS *IMPORTANT.*
I'D HATE TO MAKE GOOD ON MY PROMISE TO KICK YOUR ASS WHILE YOU'RE *DISTRACTED.**
NICE TO SEE YOU TOO, DAMIAN.
* DAMIAN PROMISED HE WOULD DEFEAT ALL THE FORMER ROBINS, WHICH PLAYS OUT IN *BATMAN & ROBIN #10-12!* --B.C.

WHAT *ARE* YOU DOING, GRAYSON?
MULTI-DATABASE SEARCH ON THE STRAYHORNS AND THE REPUBLIC OF TOMORROW.
AND TRACKING DETECTIVE TRAVIS NIE.
I NEEDED A CHANGE OF SCENERY, AND YOUR COMPUTER'S FASTER THAN MINE.


YOU SEEM...*OFF*, GRAYSON.
YOU EVER HAVE ONE OF THOSE WEEKS WHERE IT FEELS LIKE EVERYTHING YOU DO ONLY MAKES THINGS *WORSE?*
NO.

I'VE GOT A COP, A RADICAL GROUP, AND A BANK THAT ALL ASSOCIATE ME WITH *MURDER.*
AND IT'S NOT EVEN THURSDAY YET.

WELL, THE FACT THAT YOU'RE STILL *HERE*... IT'S NOT *ENTIRELY* UNIMPRESSIVE.
I ASSUMED YOU'D BE RUNNING AWAY WITH YOUR LITTLE *CIRCUS* AFTER YOU LEARNED WHAT YOUR TRUE PLACE IN GOTHAM WAS *SUPPOSED* TO BE.*
*A TALON ASSASSIN FOR THE COURT OF OWLS! —B.C.
I'M *NOT* RUNNING.
GOOD. AS THE FOREMOST AUTHORITY ON DISREGARDING ANCESTORS' WISHES FOR BLOODTHIRSTY KILLING, I THINK IT'S *IMPORTANT* TO MAKE STATEMENTS LIKE THAT.
IS THAT SO?
YOU THINK I WEAR YELLOW AND GREEN FOR *FUN*, GRAYSON?
WHAT?
IT *IS* ALL ABOUT MAKING *STATEMENTS*, ISN'T IT?
I'M NOT SURE IF YOU REMEMBER ME, DETECTIVE NIE...

...BUT WE MET AT THE MEMORIAL FOR PATROLMEN STARK AND COOKE SOME MONTHS AGO.
DEPUTY MAYOR KAVANAUGH. RIGHT.
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
AS OF TODAY, DETECTIVE ALVAREZ WILL BE TAKING OVER THE NIGHTWING INVESTIGATION FROM YOU.
OH, REALLY?
HOW DID I MISS IT...
...THE PICTURE FROM THE TATTOO SHOP WAS TAKEN TWO DAYS BEFORE THE STRAYHORN BROTHERS WERE MURDERED.
SO?
SO WHY ARE THEIR TATTOOS ALREADY GONE?
YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THAT?
DETECTIVE, I'M HERE TO ADVISE YOU THAT ANY THREAT OF A LAWSUIT IS NOT IN YOUR BEST INTEREST.
THE MAYOR'S OFFICE IS IN FULL SUPPORT. YOU'LL LOSE.
I'M NOT FRAMING HIM.
DETECTIVE ALVAREZ WILL BE--
I'M NOT FRAMING NIGHTWING!
THEN WHAT IS THIS, DETECTIVE?! WHY ARE YOU SO OBSESSED WITH THIS CASE?! WHY NIGHTWING?

BECAUSE WE WERE IN LOVE!
EVERY OTHER PICTURE-- THE TATTOOS ARE THERE. SEE? EVEN... RIGHT...
...OH.
PATROLMAN STARK AND I... CHRIS...
WE...WE WERE IN LOVE.
AND...AND YOU BLAME NIGHTWING...
"...FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?"*
*AS WITNESSED ALL THE WAY BACK IN NW #1 --B.C.
PLEASE... LET ME WORK THIS.
I'M NOT FRAMING NIGHTWING, COMMISSIONER.
CHRIS DESERVES BETTER THAN THAT.
YOU'RE IN TOO DEEP, TRAVIS. I CAN'T.
SO WAIT, YOU REALLY BELIEVE NIE ISN'T BEHIND THIS? WHY?
BECAUSE I KNOW WHO THE STRAYHORN BROTHERS WERE...

LATER...AT DETECTIVE NIE'S APARTMENT...
...AND WHAT GOT THEM KILLED!"
CHRIS...
OH, DETECTIVE NIE...
SZZZT
...DO I HAVE A CASE FOR YOU!
NEXT:
WHO IS FRAMING NIGHTWING?
THE ANSWER REVEALED!

MORE CLASSIC TALES OF THE DARK KNIGHT

BATMAN: HUSH

JEPH LOEB
JIM LEE

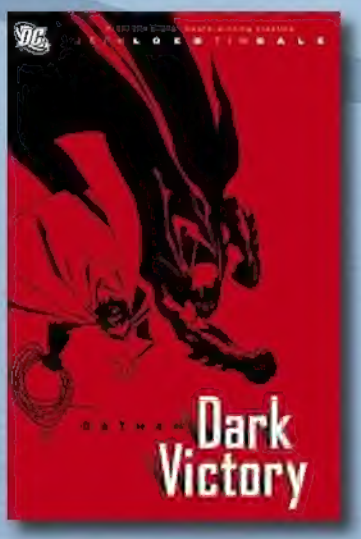
BATMAN: UNDER THE HOOD VOLS. 1 & 2

JUDD WINICK
DOUG MAHNKE

BATMAN: THE LONG HALLOWEEN

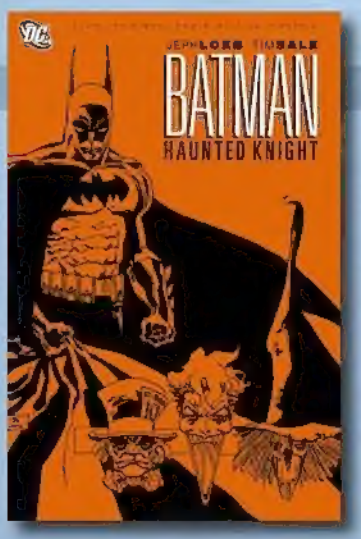
JEPH LOEB
TIM SALE

BATMAN: DARK VICTORY



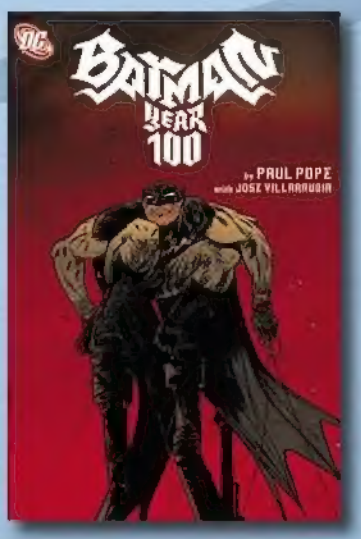
JEPH LOEB
TIM SALE

BATMAN: HAUNTED KNIGHT



JEPH LOEB
TIM SALE

BATMAN: YEAR 100



PAUL POPE

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